

News Release



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Gaviota Fire Closes Three State Park Campgrounds

Ventura – The Gaviota Fire, now burning north of Santa Barbara, has forced California State Parks officials to close three park units in that area. The three units are El Capitan and Refugio State Beaches and Gaviota State Park. The parks will remain closed at least until Tuesday, June 15, according to Richard Rojas, District Superintendent for the State Parks in the Santa Barbara area.

A spike camp for the fire fighters was set up at El Capitan State Beach over the weekend and additional fire fighters and equipment are being accommodated at Refugio State Beach. Smoke has been thick in the area and is expected to thicken as fire fighters set backfires in their efforts to contain and control the fire.

Reserve America, the agency that handles campsite reservations for California State Parks, will be issuing automatic refunds to all the people who had camping reservations for the three parks.

“We regret the inconvenience and disappointment these park closures will cause our visitors,” Rojas said. He emphasized that the parks will be reopened as soon as all danger from the fire has ended and the fire crews have been able to leave. “We will be open this summer,” Rojas pledged.

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